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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
WESTHOUGHTON.

October 1942.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
Market Street,  
WESTHOUGHTON.

To the Chairman and  
Members of the Health Committee.

October 1942.

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the Health of the District for the year 1941.

My best thanks are due to the Staff of the Department for their loyal assistance in enabling me to become rapidly familiar with the local problems. I desire to record also, my appreciation of the consideration which the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee have given me.

The Report follows similar lines to those of the immediately previous years, in conformity with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA OF THE DISTRICT - 5,560 acres.  
CENSUS POPULATION, 1931 - 16,018.  
ESTIMATED POPULATION 1941 - 14,290.  
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF YEAR - 4,448.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.		
	Legitimate	208	102	106		
Live Births	Illegitimate	5	2	3	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1941	<u>14.9</u>
	Total	213	104	109		
Stillbirths		13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	<u>51</u>
Deaths		172	91	81	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	<u>12.03</u>

<u>Deaths from puerperal causes</u>	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	74
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	70
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
" " Measles " "	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Population for Birth-rate & Death-rate			14,290		
Per 1,000 of estimated population					
	Live birthrate	Crude deathrate	Deathrate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Deathrate from Cancer	Rate of deaths under one yr. per 1,000 live births
Mean of 5 yrs., 1936-1940	13.9	13.04	0.24	1.34	50.6
1940	14.2.	12.6	0.28	1.26	44
1941	14.9	12.03	0.14	1.12	74
Increase or decrease in 1941 on 5 yrs' average 1936-1940	+1.0	- 1.01	- 0.10	- 0.22	+ 23.4
Previous year	+ 0.7	- 0.57	- 0.14	- 0.14	+ 30
Maternal Mortality Rate.					
			Per 1,000 total (live & still) births.		
Mean of 5 years 1936-1940			3.51		
1940			4.65		
1941			Nil.		
Increase or decrease in 1941 on 5 years' average 1936 - 1940			- 3.51		
Previous year			-- 4.65		

WATER SUPPLY. The water from the Bolton supply was maintained in a satisfactory manner.

DRAINAGE. There have been no important extensions or alterations in the General scheme.

HOUSING. Number of New Houses erected during the Year:-

- |      |                            |      |
|------|----------------------------|------|
| (1)  | By the Local Authority     | Nil. |
| (11) | By other bodies or persons | 5.   |

Sanitary Inspections (including housing) totalled 2,474 and 203 defects or nuisances were abated out of the 232 discovered.

FOOD INSPECTION. This work has been carried out continuously during the year - particular attention has been given to milk supplies - 189 samples were taken, 145 being submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. In 17 cases a positive result was returned and these cases were investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officer, who took the necessary action on discovering the diseased animal.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The Ambulance Service continued to function satisfactorily. Arrangements were the same as in previous years.

A total of 336 journeys were made as follows:-

Bolton	Wigan	Leigh	Miscellaneous	Total
501	16	9	10	336



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria. This disease has continued to decrease during the past few years, 12 cases being notified, compared with 21 cases in 1940 and 61 in 1939. Only seven cases occurred in children under the age of 15 years and there was one death. All the cases notified were removed to hospital - a most essential provision.

Scarlet Fever. Scarlet Fever continued to be of a mild type - there were 23 cases notified and 21 cases removed to hospital. Many cases of Scarlet Fever are removed to hospital unnecessarily as, provided the home is satisfactory the case is less likely to suffer complications if nursed in its own surroundings. Failing satisfactory home conditions, modern belief is that it is wisest to discharge from hospital a still uncomplicated case of Scarlet Fever three weeks after the onset of the disease instead of the time honoured six, again, in order to minimise the risk of complications.

For many years now, terminal disinfection has been considered to be of questionable practical, as opposed to psychological value. It has been carried out mainly because the public expect it and still tend to believe in the long exploded theories that smells and defective drains are the cause of all infection. Fresh air and soap and water are far more potent and health giving adjuncts.

Whooping Cough & Measles. According to the notifications received, both these diseases showed a decline but unfortunately notifications can bear only the slightest relation to the actual number of cases.

The one case of Whooping Cough notified, died - which probably explains the notification.

There were no deaths from measles.

Immunisation. Strenuous efforts have been made during the year to arouse public interest - both during an intensive weeks campaign, assisted by Ministry of Information Film Shows, and continuously by posters and leaflets.

Permission was obtained to visit the schools and hold sessions in turn, and much assistance was given by all the Head Teachers.

Twice monthly clinics were also held in association with the M.C.W. Clinic. Nursing assistance was most willingly and efficiently given by the whole-time members of the First Aid Post.

As a result 59.4% of the school children on roll were immunised - a total of 891. In addition 265 pre-school children were immunised. Parents of children now receive a letter and pamphlet encouraging them to have their child protected at or about its first birthday.

Scabies. In common with many other areas this contagious skin disease has become more prevalent in Westhoughton than previously. Fortunately it can be reasonably well controlled and cured if it is treated as the family disease that it is, and arrangements were almost completed at the end of the year to utilise the male gas cleansing section of the First Aid Post at the Senior Girls School for this purpose. Most unfortunately the Education Authorities refused permission for the use of these premises and consequently, owing to prohibitive cost and scarcity of materials no cleansing facilities are yet available for this area.

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of death during the year, 1941.

Registrar General's Return.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES	FEMALES
Whooping Cough	-	1
Diphtheria	1	-
Influenza	-	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	-	-
Cancer	7	9
Diabetes	2	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	7	7
Heart Disease	22	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
Bronchitis	8	1
Pneumonia	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	2	1
Appendicitis	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-
Other Liver Diseases	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2
Nephritis	3	5
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Chronic debility, Premature Birth etc.,	3	6
Suicide	-	-
Other Violence & Road Traffic Accidents	5	4
Other defined diseases	15	11
	91	81

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1941.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5			2					
10			2	1				
15	1							
20	3			1				
25								
35	1		1					
45	1			1	1			
55		1	1					
65 and Upwards						1		
	6	1	7	3	1	1		
	7		10		2			

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1941. (Notified cases only).

DISEASE	Total Cases at all ages	CASES NOTIFIED												Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
		Under 1 to 2	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Smallpox															
Scarlet Fever	23			2	2	2	9	9	1						21
Diphtheria	12			2			3	2		4	1			1	12
Para-Typhoid	4						1	1	1	1					4
Measles	39	1	4	1	1	9	21	3						1	
Whooping Cough	1			1											
Pneumonia	12						4	1	2			5		6	
Purpural Erythema	1									1					
Cerebro-spinal fever	1							1						1	
Acute Poliomyelitis															
Encephalitis lethargica															
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1													
Erysipelas	1						1								1
Totals	95	1	1	4	6	12	38	17	4	6	1	5		8	39

